# FROM THE VERY FIRST

The Star as Seen by an Old Washingtonian.

THE EARLIEST ISSUES

WHAT THE LITTLE FOUR-PAGE

DAILY CONTAINED.

The Star's Steady Growth-Always the Friend of the District.

The following article was written for Th Star on its semi-centennial by Mr. Edgar H. Bates, who was for twenty years a police magistrate of Washington, and who has read The Star daily since its first issue: The "Evening Star" was first observed by the people of Washington in the winter twilight of December 12, 1852. It then gave little promise of becoming a "fixed star," for it disappeared for four nights thereafter, invisible to the human eye after shedding its tiny beam for one brief evening. Upon the 16th it appeared again and took its place in the newspaper world of Washington, where many before it had sprung to a brief existence-and oblivion; a realm. too, which seemed amply supplied by its powerful and prosperous neighbor, "The National Intelligencer." Many have been the newspaper failures before and since upon the very field so bravely entered by The Evening Star, one infant enterprise having gone out of life only twenty-four days old. The longest-lived, the Intelligencer, in 1870, with a record of seventy honorable. able years, discontinued publication. The Star, however, was a destined figure in the horoscope of national affairs, and despite its puny size; despite the dead past; despite competition, the little light shone on dimly

About that time it attracted the attention of two gentlemen who were looking for a business investment. They bought the lit-tle paper from its owner, Captain J. B. Tate, commander of the Washington Light Infantry, who regarded it as a fortunate speculation-so blind is mankind to fate a

The Evening Star has proved a fortunat speculation to all who have been connected with it, and it has proved more than that It has become a positive factor in the wel-fare not only of Washington, but of the country at large.

#### Under W. D. Wallach.

The history of The Star may be said to have begun with its new proprietors Messrs. W. D. Wallach, brother of Richard Wallach, erstwhile mayor of Washingto and W. H. Hope. When on July 5, 1853. Messrs. Wallach and Hope entered the editorial rooms of The Star which, having be gun its existence at the corner of 8th and I streets, had shifted to 6th street and Penn sylvania avenue, and from there to a mor permanent lodgment on D street near 12th they were ensconsed in the second story over a carriage shop, and the floors were dusty, the walls dingy in accordance with the traditional newspaper office. The climbed the staircase, knowing not the ease would mount in elevators to the top floor of their palatial nine-story building.

As their quill pens moved rapidly in the performance of their arduous duties as edi-

Two Hundred and Fifty Per Hour. In a nearby part of the building a small hand press was laboriously pounding out "Stars" at the rate of 250 per hour, leaving them damp and inky to be folded by the carriers. If the hardworked pressman could have beheld in a day dream the magnificent machinery which science some day cause to melt and mold type illustrate and fold, in thirty minutes, 85,000 papers, each paper containing about twenty-five times the amount of matter which he labored so hard to produce, it is safe to assume that the "pied" condition of at least one edition would have astonished his few hundred readers and jeopardized his position. Fortunate it was for him, therefore, that he had no such imaginings. Eight hundred sheets were daily "wet down" to supply their subscribers. Very soon thereafter it became necessary the demand exceeded the supply. There-upon 150 "half sheets" were struck off,

containing the most important telegraphic The kerosene light and tallow tips by which Messrs. Wallach and Hope wrote manuscripts and read requests for free adcause expedient, for, though gas was used in some of the larger establishments of the city, its rate of \$4.00 per 1,000 feet placed it upon the list of luxuries unnecessary in a

I fear, however, that now, the humble menial employed within the stately walls of The Star's home would consider his inalienable rights considerably abridged were he deprived of the blaze of electricity which Illumines its furthermost underground re-

# Contents of The Star.

A few days after Wallach and Hope had taken charge of The Evening Star its appearance may be described somewhat as follows: Size, about twenty-one inches by fifteen—four pages of six columns each.
Upon the first page, the first column was
dedicated to the merits of several neverfailing remedies which set forth in their advertisements, with funereal solemnity, their power to cure all the ills flesh is heir to, from sprained ankles to bad manners.
Agricultural implements—then more in demand by citizens of Washington than nowwere also highly recommended in this

Next, the pleasure-seeking public was informed that Piney Point and Fauquier White Sulphur could be easily reached and enjoyed. The print, however, was so small se that the cost of the trip-to one's eyesight-was dear enough.

The traveling public was next advised the time of the departure of trains, also dates

It would prove of would refer to the departure of trains, also dates

The magnificent concert given by Ole Bull, Strakosch and the child Patti was the

In the fourth column business and pleasure were laid aside for literary profit.

This department always opened with a
poem—"An Ode to the Grave," "My Sophronia," "The Drunkard's Return"



MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE FROM 18TH STREET.

was a letter from "Peregrina," that bright, sensible "old maid" whom we might almost imagine to have been an early incorner.

Always on Aid to a least of the story ington, The Star's comment paying her full tribute.

of Lillian Bell. The right-hand column was devoted to funny paragraphs, under the heading "Va-Though it may appear strange to some of us accustomed to present day "originalities," wit was the chief ingredient of these witticisms. The candle which, afer burning to the middle, would burn no onger, as well as that sovereign preventive against dogs going mad in August-which was to cut off their heads in July-were spoken of in this column. The latter might still be used to advantage.

#### On the Second Page.

The second page contained the germ which has developed into present perfection-the editorials. These were more than up-to-date. They were advanced, impartial, enterprising. Dueling, which was then considered a national institution, albeit deplored by some; public executions which had just been prohibited by act of Congress, the hanging of Daniel Woodward being the first private execution in the District under the then new law; as well as more vital questions of national and international importance were frankly, fearless-

ly and impartially discussed.

Throughout the flurry of '53 in New York financial circles The Star's editorials from first to last advised with cool wisdom, and were the first to announce steadler pros-pects. The sure welfare of the people has been from its commencement The Star's

One of these old comments upon the life end character of "Mr. Andrew Johnson, who has just born made governor of Tennessee," speaks of him in highest terms of praise as "a man whose walk in Washington was a model for all," "one whose life contains more for the youth of our land than that of any other public man," The than that of any other public man." The gist of contemporary publications was also given, under the caption "Spirit of the Morning Press"-without comment.

Alexandria Georgetown. and Baltimore news was next in order, llowing which came two columns of advertisements, an intermixture of soaps, perfumeries, "help wanted," "notice to tax-payers," "genteel house wanted," music, cigars, dentistry and daguerreotypes. cigars, dentistry and daguerrectypes.
Whitehurst, Root and Thompson vied with each other in presenting the latter.

each other in presenting the latter.

The new music at Hilbus and Hitz's included "Lilly Dale," "Murmuring Sea,"
"General Persifer Smith's March," "Aunt Ha'et Beccher Stowe," "Vandalia Waltz" and a variety of polkas and schottisches.

Joseph Shillington advertised the new novel, "Bleak House," for the unprecedented price of 50 cents. dented price of 50 cents.

#### On the Third Page.

These would now be considered unique, if not up to the standard of advertising possibilities. Diminutive pictures of carriages, hats, flowers, bird cages, oyster shells, coffins, houses and false teeth particularized and emphasized enterprising efforts to present with exactitude and clearness the merits of the business set forth, bringing one, as it were, upon the spot.

The punctiliously worded descriptions were in print so fine as to require eagle eyes and plenty of leisure to do them jus-

tice. The amount of credulity also needed probably exceeded even that necessary at the present day.

# The Last Page.

The fourth and last page was devoted first to a one-column article of historical or other interest, hotel arrivals at the National, Brown's, Gadsby's and the United States; police and criminal court news, city directory, where The Star might be procured-namely Warner's, Navy Yard or Mc-Pherson's drug store, Capitol Hill; Shillington's, Pennsylvania avenue; Baker's or Adams' grocery, 7th street; Oxley's drug store, first ward, and Linthicum's drug store, Georgetown. The city directory recalls the names of John W. Maury, John Mc-Cormick, Robert Roche, Henry Ball, John C. Harkness, John H. Goddard, William Orme, Thompson Van Riswick, Henry Gun-nell and Francis Lord.

The regular subscription price was six cents per week, payable weekly to the carters. The ever-increasing subscription list caused some delay several times in deliverriers. ng papers to patrons, and in a very short time the management announced that they had placed the carriers in charge of several efficient men, who would supervise them and see that a better system was observed. Soon a route of 700 subscribers was of-

fered for sale.
Slave cases—their entrance into or exit from the city was frequently noted. Upon one occasion when two slaves were taken forcibly from their owner, a Louisiana man who was under suspicion of having cruelly and filegally obtained them, they proudly protested their allegiance to him, declaring they would die before they would leave their master. Many such instances are thus chronicled in the old dailies which throw strong side lights upon the history

In reading many of these old comments. fifty years seem a lifetime. For instance, the fountain pen which had just been invented was described as "a pen said to contain concealed in its handle a small tube of ink, which is automatically fed to the pen, enabling one to write two or three ing assistance of The Star and its editors.

of the salling of ocean liners—one column next day praised in the highest terms by The Star. The flexibility and sweetness The Star. The flexibility and sweetness of little Pattl's wonderful voice, the marvelous mastery of Strakosch over the piano-forte and the exquisite pathos and power of Ole Bull's violin were applauded without ronia," "The Drunkard's Return" or upon stimt. President Pierce was present at that concert. A few weeks later the great Sonlowing this came a story, sometimes a continued one, with a moral; always with a honored by the people and press of Wash-



F STREET, FROM PATENT OFFICE, WEST.

In its earliest days, as has been the case ever since, The Star's columns were drawn upon by out-of-town papers for news-the editors upon one occasion caustically remarking that although the profession was to them laborious enough with work from 5 a. m. to 12 p. m., it seemed as easy life for their "esteemed contemporary" (whose name we need not mention) whose chief implement of editorship appeared to be scissors. They generously consented to his use of their matter, only

asking the simple courtesy of credit.

In a month or two The Star had more than double the circulation of any other paper in Washington. Before July was out the paper was worked off on "our own new double-cylinder Napier press," and an apology to the public was in order for the misfit paper upon which one evening's edition was printed, for "we have used up all the paper and were compelled to resort to anything at hand. We have ordered more, however," they announced, and, after all, it was the fault of the public, who would no longer be satisfied with a few hundred Stars, but in two months had demanded a circulation of 4,000 instead.

#### Steady Improvement.

In October the purchase of "a handsome new steam engine and a new press capable of turning off 5,000 per hour" was mentioned, and in another column a "superroyal Smith press" was advertised for sale cheap at The Star office.

In August an agency had been established in Baltimore, followed the next mouth by other agencies in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Before three months had elapsed the paper was enlarged, giving about three columns more of space, and its circulation increased to more than all its contemporaries together.

The advantages of advertising in The Star evidently begun simultaneously with The Star itself. Several instances of quick results therefrom are with business-like promptness noted—as a word to the wise. "Cheap enterprises" were favored. The railroad companies were advised to run special excursions to the "world's fair" in New York, "probably geting thereby fully 250 people from Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria who otherwise would not go, and making \$1,500 which they companies) would not otherwise make. In those days the governors and mayor-not the President-set apart Thanksgiving day, and an early November editorial reminded the mayor that as most of the gov-ernors had proclaimed a certain day a oclamation to the city of Washington was

In January, 1854, the paper was again en-

#### A Young Man From Maine.

In 1853 a stroke of good fortune befell The Star. A young man from Maine became connected with its staff, and soon, by the distinguishing character of his literary work, attracted the attention of all con- away. nected with him. His name was Crosby S. other gentlemen, namely, S. H. Kauffmann Alexander R. Shepherd, Clarence Baker and George W. Adams, he purchased the paper from W. Douglass Wallach, who some years before had become sole proprietor. The price paid was \$100,000. In a short time Messrs. Baker and Shipherd withdrew, and a number of years later Mr. Adams died, leaving Mr. Crosby S. Noyes and Mr. S. H. Kauffmann head and front of the great enterprise. They have made it a gigantic success in every sense of the word. Their one purpose has been the perfection

of the daily newspaper. Crosby S. Noyes was a member of the common council in 1863, co-laborer with Alexander R. Shepherd, and alderman from the seventh ward in 1864. With these exceptions he has refused public office, steadfastly keeping to his one ambition, to create a living power which should be of and for the people. Not for the administration, nor for the party, but for the true interest of the country. And his labors, with that of his coadjutors, has not been in vain. The Evening Star of Washington holds a place unique and necessary. It is unlike any other newspaper in the country. Its attitude toward all questions, great or small, is educating, broadening, uplifting. Every household in which it is regularly read is benefited and informed without blas or prejudice upon the salient points of the world's doings.

The Star's Good Work for Washington It may be termed a brief current history of men and affairs, with, of course, a preponderance from the capital. Though it may sometimes be forgotten, we may pause in our admiration of Washington's beauty, its magnificent distances, streets and parks, to remember that to The Evening Star is due much of the praise and gratitude for its present condition, for its uplifting from primitive meagerness to stately grandeur.

The work of improving Washington, for which Alexander R. Shepherd's name is pages without touching the inkstand," and that if all that was claimed for it were true it would prove of wenderful benefit.

It has ever been at the front of all movements for the betterment of the nation's capital. The Rock Creek improvement plan, capital. The Rock Creek improvement plan, as also the movement which resulted in the United States government assuming one half the District's debts, owe much to The Star's voice and influence.

So after fifty years of constant growth and increasing power The Evening Star has come to be one of the necessities of advanced thought, education and welfare.

# Amazing Vitality of Seeds.

From the Lancet. The duration of dormant vitality in seeds is still a vexed question. Some botanists of no mean repute support the view that seeds exposed to the air after having been long deeply buried in the earth resuscitate and germinate as usual; others, while admitting that healthy seeds retain for a limited time in favorable circumstances these powers of revivification, are disposed to doubt the possession of this capacity for any lengthened period and to treat many of the reported cases as founded on imperfect and inconclusive observation.

M. Jules Poisson, in the Comtes Rendus de l'Academie Francaise, points out that considerable variations exist in the retention of their germinal power in the seeds of different plants, some soon losing it, others retaining it for a long time. M. Poisson himself adduces the following cases: In the park of the castle of Combreux, in the department of Seine-et-Marne, he observed that on each occasion that part of the forest was cut down a quantity of a leguminous annual, the Lathyrus nis-solia, grew up. The plants reappeared by self-sowing for several years, but as the trees again reared themselves the legume disappeared, and this occurred on several occasions in different parts of the wood. Again, many years ago, when some of the buildings of old Paris were being destroyed to make room for the present mansions, M. Boisduval took home with him some of the earth, and spread it over that contained in his own garden, and in the course of a month obtained two fine sheafs of Juneus his own garden, and in the course of a month obtained two fine sheafs of Juneus bufonius, which grows in moist places such as in early times Lutetie was buttered. The consequence was that a Nor lose one sand of life's revolving glass, Assiring still with energy subdiscipling at the stream, there was no railing on the upper side. The consequence was that a Nor lose one sand of life's revolving glass, and in the course of a that that point, where F street crossed the stream, there was no railing on the upper side. The consequence was that a Nor lose one sand of life's revolving glass, and the stream of the stream of the course of a that that point, where F street crossed the stream of the stream of the stream of the course of a the stream of the stre

# THE OLD WASHINGTON a distance of nearly fifteen feet, and doubtless indebted to the sandy bottom the remnant of life he brought away.

When the National Capital Was but a Small Town.

OF DISTANCES CITIZENS RELIED ON PUMPS AND

WELLS FOR WATER. Old Goose Creek or Tiber Was Unshorn

> of Its Glory-Mr. Smithson's Bequest.

By P. L. Phillips. In no age of the world has such rapid progress been made in physical development as during the last half of the twentieth century. We have only to look back fifty years ago, to the condition of things, to be impressed with the truth of this. The capital of the nation has not kept pace with many western cities; but its progress has been steady, and it can claim to be abreast

of the times. A city directory of the year 1852 presents the contrasts between then and now in a striking point of view. The population of the city was then 45,000. It is now 278,718. The streets were then unpaved. There were no cable cars, electric cars, horse cars, nor even omnibus lines. The people who were even omnibus lines. The people who were unable to keep carriages had to foot it through the wind or the dust, and these norant of many things here that we look

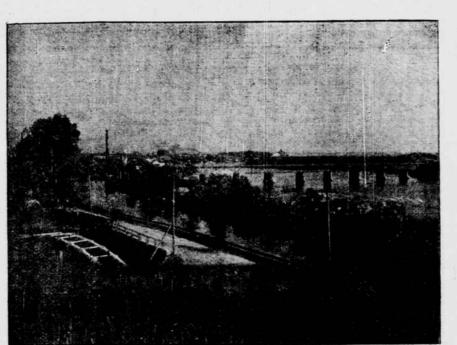
a distance of nearly fifteen feet, and was doubtless indebted to the sandy bottom for

The Department Buildings.

In 1852 the State Department, the War Department and the Navy Department-all Department and the Navy Department-all W. W. Birth's Birthday Greeta half stories high. The State Department stood on the ground now occupied by the north end of the Treasury Department. The War and Navy Department were then upon a part of the ground occupied by the magnificent building which now accommodates those two departments with the State Department. The Treasury Department was long colonnade. It was built of yellow sandstone of an inferior quality, and has since been painted white more than once. The old center part of the Capitol, together with the same inferior material. The stone had holes in it, which, filled with putty or plaster, have ceased to be conspicuous. The wings of the Capitol and the additions to the patent office and Treasury Department have been built since the date of 1853. The new parts of the treasury-that is to say two-thirds of it, are of Maine granite. The new parts of the treasury-that is to say, Star; sort of marble of which the Washington that building was added within the decade which preceded the war. The treasury and the new dome of the Capitol were unfinished at the close of the war.

#### Mr. Smithson's Bequest.

The Smithsonian Institution was established prior to 1852, but it was still in a state of incipiency at that date and had not then taken rank with the great scientific institutions of the world. The story of its origin is familiar to intelligent people



THE AQUEDUCT BRIDGE.

were nineteen-twentleths of the whole population. The more favored class could get along very well in dry weather, but their vehicles would be mired when it rained. Washington was not a very attractive place in those days. There were few dwellings On the Third Page.

The third page contained unofficial city items, telegraphic news—mostly of the western states—deaths, marriages, etc., and vast network of wires with all places of the columns more of advertisements.

On the Third Page.

In January, 1804, the paper was again entered with press, capable of turning off 6,000 per hour, was installed. In the latter part of '54 the office was removed to the south side of Pennsylvania avenue near 11th street, where it continued for many years. possession of by ghosts, as everybody knew. A few years prior to this date Mr. Packenham, the British minister, when about to go

home, wrote a letter to some one, which got into the newspapers, in which he said that nobody lived in Washington who could get In dry, windy weather clouds of dust filled Noyes. In 1867, in connection with four the air, the clothes and nostrils of the people

who were compelled to be out of doors. What I say of the dust in dry and of the mud in rainy weather will seem incredible to the people of this generation, who are accustomed to see the finest pavements in the world throughout the city. But let them consult the old inhabitants on the subject, and their skepticism will be removed.

# The Old Canal.

The canal, which in that primitive age was made by greatly enlarging the bed of Goose creek, and which pedantry had christened "The Tiber," extended from 7th street, along what is now B street, and about 100 feet wide, to a broad basin between 3d and 41/2 streets. Steamers and schooners penetrated that part of the city through this canal, which was lined with ugly, filthy wood and lumber yards, and at the same time it served as a preserve for breeding and protecting mosquitoes. And it was a most successful enterprise in this regard, as the oldest inhabitants can testify. It was well devised if the purpose had been to preserve the reputation of the capital of the nation as "The City of Magnificent Distances." For, as Mr. Packenham justly said, nobody lived here who could get away. There were thousands of wealthy people in this country even at that day; they would gladly have built winter homes at the capital of the nation, where they could see and bring their families into association with the families of congressmen and the high officials of the government, but a short visit satisfied them that the capital city was not a place for clean and comfortable residence, and they staved away.

# A Primitive Water Supply.

In 1852 Washington, with its 45,000 inhabitants, and Georgetown, with its 7.000 or 8,000, were dependent entirely upon pumps for the water used by the people for all purposes. It is true that the pumps furnished very good drinking water-better than we now get from the Potomac-but there was none to be used for washing the streets, for flushing the sewers-such as there were-for watering the parks and flower beds, for washing door steps and sidewalks. For all these purposes the people were dependent upon the reservoirs over their heads, in the clouds.

Goose creek or Tiber was still unshern of all its glory as it meandered its slimy way from the northeastern hills through the eastern half of the city and was lost in the basin, at the function of 3d and 41/2 streets. It crossed Pennsylvania avenue at 2d street under a bridge and passed on through what is now the conservatory grounds. It may have been a year or two before the war that a carriage was overturned and precipitated down the steep bank of the creek, at the junction of 2d street with the avenue. There were two men inside, who were drowned, and I believe the driver, also.

A tributary of this famous stream passed diagonally through Judiciary Square, from the northwest to the southeast, where or nearby it runs into a large sewer. There was a rickety bridge over this little stream at the northeast angle where it enters the park; and a sober citizen in attempting to cross the bridge, after a heavy shower, which had converted the sluggish stream into a torrent, fell in, and was swept down through the sewer, He was drowned, of course. The city authorities, by arching over these streams, have not only speiledobliterated-Tom Moore's satire upon Washington, but saved human lives. Another small stream ran through the square on which the Masonic Temple stands; and

upon as the farmer does upon his plows and wagons. And even in Washington there are thousands who would resent the mputation of being classed with the ignorant, and yet they go about their business, year after year and never go to the Capitol nor to other public buildings. But it is sufficient to say that James Smithson an English gentleman, a bachelor, and a scientist, the son of the Duke of Northum berland, bequeathed his estate to the United States for the purpose of founding a scientific institution which was to bear

following: "I bequeath the whole of my property to the United States of America to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge

his name. The words of his will were the

among men." Mr. Smithson had never visited the United States, but, though the son of a noble-man, he was a friend of liberty and of liberal opinions. He was ambitious, like most men of perpetuating his name. He said, "The best blood of England flows in my velns; on my father's side I am a Northumberland, on my mother's I am re-lated to kings, but this avails me not. My name shall live in the memory of man when the titles of the Northumberlands and the Percys are extinct and forgotten." And as the founder of this great institution he made his words prophetic and insured their

Mr. Smithson died in 1829. There was condition of his will that his property was to go to a nephew of his who was dying of consumption, and at his death without heirs of his body, then to the United States, for the purposes above stated. death of his nephew took place about the year 1834; and in 1835 the American legation in London was notified that Mr. Smithson's estate of the value of about £100,000, was held in the court of chancery for this country. Strange to say, there was opposition in this country to the reception of this fund, and even Mr. Calhoun opposed its acceptance.

When the strict constructionists were overruled, and the bequest was accepted. suit was brought in the court of chan-cery and it was thought a great achievement that the decree was obtained in less than two years. The fund amounted to \$508,318.46. This sum was soon after increased to \$515,169, and in 1867 a residuary legacy of \$26,210.63 fell in. The money invested at 6 per cent, and notwith standing the expenditures for building and salaries, it is now above \$900,000. The institution has been well managed. It is officially stated that the value of books distributed, down to 1895, was nearly a million dollars. Eight years were con sumed in debating in Congress upon what should be the character of the institution, but during these years the fund was grow-

ing at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.

The city directory of 1852 shows that there were then about nine hundred clerks and employes in the public offices. Their pay was on an average 25 per cent lower han is now paid by the government for the same class of duties.

The city government was then under a mayor, aldermen and common council, all elected by the people. There were circumstances of those times which should make the people of the present day envy them. For instance, during the year there were but six murders, and only one suicide. We but six murders, and only one suicide. should do well nowadays to compromise on six murders and one suicide per month, although the population is not fourfold

# Growth of the Capital.

At the end of 1848 there were 6,150 dwellings in the city, of which 2,500 were brick. At the end of 1852 there were 8,363 dwellings in the city, of which 3,080 were of brick. The Congress library was destroyed by fire in December, 1851. It had occupled only the middle of the three apartments which were afterward, and until the present time, appropriated to that purpose. The shelving was all of wood, which accounts for the complete destruction of all books. The burnt shelves were afterward replaced by iron. And now we have the grandest library in the world. A directory of 1853 contains some verses of ex-President John Quincy Adams, as an

ode "To the Sun-Dial under the window of the hall of the House of Representatives," It was said of Mr. Adams that he was the most learned man who ever wielded executive power over a nation, whether as king or president; and he was, in many respects, a great man. But he was not a great poet. He was fend of writing verses; and he pubished one work in rhythmic verse of co siderable length. As I recall i', the title was "Dermott MacMorrow." He was an anti-Mason, and I think his poem related to that question. The verses on the Sun-Dial are as follows:

Thou silent herald of Time's ceaseless flight.
Say. couldst thou speak, what warning voice
were thine—
Shade who can only show how others shine,
Dark, sullen witness of resplendent light.

In day's broad glare, and when the noontide bright Of laughing Fortune sheds the ray divine, Thy ready favors cheer us—but decline The clouds of morning and the gloom of night.

ing to The Star.

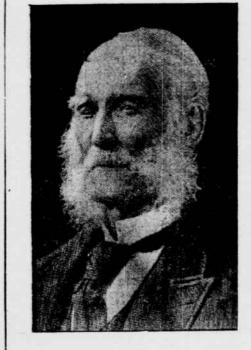
THE STAR AS AN INFANT

then only the part on 15th street, with the WHAT HAS LARGELY CONTRIB-UTED TO ITS SUCCESS.

the south front of the patent office, are of | How the National Capital Has Changed | that the public is not lacking in informain the Past Fifty Years.

> Mr. W. W. Birth, over ninety years of age, a well-known resident of Washington, writes as follows of the early days of The

"The Evening Star newspaper today closes monument is built. The additions to the Capitol are of marble. The Post Office Department is all of marble. Two-thirds of ings and congratulations to its proprietors, the members of its staff and its other em-



Wm. W. Birth.

ployes, each of whom in his line of occusuccess of a news sheet. "Its first proprietor and publisher was a

and a small weekly, by William Thompsons ts name was, I think, the Saturday News.

Mr. Wallach's Energy.

Mr. Douglass Wallach became the second owner, editor and publisher of The Evening Star, and was indefatigable in his efforts to render the paper popular and profitable. His ownership covered the period of the civil war, during which I frequently met him on his rounds through the government departments in search of the latest and most reliable news. His close and persistent inquiries and push secured all that could be obtained, and it is not unlikely that the accuracy and reliability of his issues then contributed very largely to the popularity of the paper with the people, who all read it, and who still rely upon its welcome columns for exact news. The company now in control has made success so conspicuous tion as to the phenomenal progress of Mr. Noyes and his associates. The Star's home is in all its arrangements perhaps away beyond that of any news sheet in the world. Consideration for the comfort and convenience of the employes was carefully planned and successfully carried out. This is a highly praiseworthy section of the record, and in itself deserves and receives public applause. The news and advertisement columns of the sheet are models of skill. good taste and arrangement, and do and will continue to contribute to the popularity, and patronage of the now famous institu-

#### The Changed Washington.

"The appearance of the city of Washing. ton has greatly changed since The Star first entered on its career. The elegant finish of our streets and avenues and the style of our dwellings is a great improvement on conditions existing in 1852.

"Many large and handsome public buildings have been erected since then, notably the marble extension wings to the Capitol, the 7th, 9th and G streets additions to the patent office, the general and city post office building, the superb new National Library, besides the Corcoran Art Gallery and City, Library, now nearing completion.

"Styles of living have changed, and to meet this change many stately 'apartment houses' have come to us, and others are in course of erection and more in contempla-

"Large areas of land beyond the old limits of the city, which were in farms and resrket gardens when the light of The Evening Star first shone upon us, are now, being rapidly covered with city houses, paved streets, street lights, shade trees, water from the aqueduct, sewers, lines of electric cars, and all the conveniences and comfolis to be found within the aid bonns daries. These improvements are attracting families who seek quiet and pure air, as pation is an important contributor to the they are on high ground removed from the bustle of business.

"So great have been the changes since printer by occupation and sent forth the we entered on the fifth decade of the nines.



NEW YORK AVENUE.

first number of The Star one day in Decemwhen compared with the many-paged, clearly printed number of today, as may be seen by inspecting a duplicate of the first | eyes issue, which forms a part of today's mammoth memorial edition of The Star.

teenth century that if it were possible for ber, 1852. It was a small humble sheet, the people of 1852 to revisit old familiar scenes they would raise their hands in

"And now, in closing, the writer thinks it is eminently proper that something should "I cannot now recall all the newspapers | be said in recognition of the many highly then published in our city. At present I re- commendable acts of substantial relief by member only the National Intelligencer, by The Star's proprietors to the frequently re-



ACROSS LAFAYETTE SQUARE.

the Globe, by Blair and Reeves, from Pennsylvania avenue between 3d and 41/2 streets | eign lands. northwest; the Telegraph, by Duff Green, from Carroll's row, 1st and A streets southfrom 7th street near E street northwest, success.

Gales & Scaton, issued from the north- curring calamities visited upon and taking west corner of 7th and D streets northwest; place in many forms in the home city, in other cities all over our country and in for-

"May the popular, admirably conducted, newspaper continue in prosperity for half east; the anti-slavery sheet, by Mr. Balley, centuries beyond and achieve still greater

